

The exterior of the concretion is a hard shell about one sixteenth of an inch thick, with a distinct metallic ring when tapped with a scalpel. The color is yellow, resembling that of cholesterin, and the surface, as shown in the illustration, is thickly studded with sharp spines resembling a cockle burr. The interior was of a soft, putty-like consistency and was not further examined as I desired to preserve the specimen, the size of a large hickory nut, intact. I have never before seen a case with this pathologic condition, of years' duration doubtless, with such a negative clinical history with the exception of the two brief attacks of pain due to perforation. On September 4 he returned to Creede feeling quite well and the wound had perfectly healed.

Mack Block.

## TWO FAVUS FAMILIES

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Favus is not a rare disease in this country and there are usually a few cases in all of the dermatologic clinics of our larger cities. In the parts of Europe where it is most prevalent it is a disease of the country rather than of the city. This is probably due to the fact that the families of the



Fig. 1.—Favus in a family of nine, five of whom had the disease.

peasants live more closely crowded together and under less sanitary conditions than does our rural population. Still the fact that favus has never become common in this country is largely due to the rigid exclusion by the federal authorities of immigrants affected with it.

The following cases illustrate the effect of not properly treating every patient with favus as soon as it is discovered, and the fact that the importance of such treatment is not sufficiently realized in places where it is a rare disease. They also illustrate the fact that favus frequently originates in this country. The impression is still prevalent among many physicians that nearly all cases of favus are found in immigrants, though as long ago as 1896, this was shown by Wende of Buffalo not to be the case. Another point of interest is the rather unusual number of individuals of the same family affected, and the extent of the disease in them.

A few months ago my attention was attracted to the subject by a case of favus in a boy 13 years old, who for five years had been occasionally coming to the dermatologic clinic of the Yale Medical School. A visit to his home disclosed the fact that there were nine children in the family, of whom four others, children aged 10, 8, 6 and 2 years, were affected. The boy of 13 was nearly bald. The disease in the child of 2 was not extensive. In the others, practically the whole of the scalp was involved. None

of them had been treated at all except the boy of 13. All of these cases developed in this country, the parents having come from Italy twenty years ago. The extent of the involvement is shown in Figure 1, the photograph having been taken after the removal of the crusts. (In neither family was I ever able to get all five of the children together for a photograph.)

The second family was also Italian, and the parents also came here about twenty years ago. It was discovered by the Visiting Nurses' Association, which had been caring for the other family. In this family there were five children of the ages of 12, 8, 6 and 4 years, and a baby of 10 months. All of the children had favus, and they presented a disgusting appearance, well shown by Figure 2, which was taken before any attempt at cleaning had been made. The scales on the girl's dress, which fell when her cap was taken off, show the ease with which she could scatter the disease if opportunity offered.

All of these cases originated in this country, and I subsequently found out that some of them had been discovered more than five years previously. As favus is not a reportable disease, nothing was done about them, and it was allowed to spread, with the results described. Children with favus are excluded from school, so with the exception of the boy of 13, who at some time or other had been in school for about six months, none of them had ever been in school at all. With the same exception, none of them had had any treatment.



Fig. 2.—All of the five children of this family, of whom four are shown, had favus.

Such a condition not only deprives its victims of an education, but if allowed to continue, deprives them, on account of their disgusting appearance, of practically all means of earning a living until the disease has eradicated itself, which in some cases is not before old age.

It is obvious that favus should be made a reportable disease, and that each case should be properly treated as soon as it is discovered.

**Partial Refrigerating Process to Aid in Transportation of Milk.**—Our Italian exchange, *Pediatrics*, describes a method for keeping milk for long transportation, which has been introduced into the Brazilian province of Minas-Geraes, noted for its dairies. The principle is to cool the milk after pasteurization and pour it into a 300-quart can already containing blocks of frozen milk. The milk is frozen in blocks weighing 22 or 33 pounds, and ten or twelve of these blocks are placed in the large can, which has insulating walls, and the chilled and pasteurized milk is poured over them. Milk which has been thus sealed is said to keep for fifteen or twenty days. When the can is opened the milk is found homogeneous and is said to resemble in every respect the freshly drawn product.